



# City Administrator's Monthly Report

June 2010

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.*

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## Key Meetings

### ***City Council Meetings***

Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

## Community Events

### ***Franceschi Work Day***

Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to Noon at Franceschi Park located at 1501 Franceschi Road. Volunteers are invited to trim plants, clear paths, and perform general park clean up.

### ***Special City Council Meetings on Fiscal Year 2011 Budget***

Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 5 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 5 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

### ***Summer Solstice Festival***

Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. For times and locations of Solstice events, visit: [www.solsticeparade.com](http://www.solsticeparade.com).

### ***Fiscal Year 2011 City Budget Adoption***

Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, afternoon session of City Council at 735 Anacapa Street.

### ***Fourth of July Celebrations***

Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Fourth of July Parade begins at 1 p.m. The parade route begins at Micheltorena Street and proceeds down State Street, concluding at Cota Street. Live entertainment on West Beach begins at 7 p.m., followed by fireworks at 9 p.m.

## Flags on State Street

<i>Santa Barbara Beautiful</i>	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through 10 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Flag Day</i>	June 10 <sup>th</sup> through 18 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Summer Solstice</i>	June 18 <sup>th</sup> through 28 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Independence Day</i>	June 28 <sup>th</sup> through July 6 <sup>th</sup>

## City Administrator's Office

***Council Budget Deliberations Begin.*** Due to declining revenues and cost increases, the City has projected an estimated \$9 million deficit in the General Fund for the upcoming fiscal year. This month, the City reached an agreement with its largest bargaining unit, represented by SEIU Local 620. The agreement is equivalent to a 6% salary reduction for General Bargaining Unit employees, which will be taken through unpaid leave or furlough during the next fiscal year. The vacation cash-out benefit provided under their labor contract will also be suspended. This will provide approximately \$2 million in labor cost savings in the upcoming fiscal year, almost \$1 million of that in the General Fund. The agreement also restores positions for 21 General Bargaining Unit employees that would have faced layoff or displacement. The City is continuing to negotiate with the Police Officers Association, the Firefighters Association, and the Police Management Association.

All City departments presented their budgets to Council in April and May. Special worksessions will be held to discuss the Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 5 p.m. Meeting dates and times are subject to change or cancellation. Council will adopt a balanced budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

For the most current schedule of budget meetings, the budget document, and videos of Council budget discussions, visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov). The budget document is also available at the City Clerk's Office at 735 Anacapa Street and the Public Library at 40 East Anapamu Street.

## Administrative Services Department

***City Website Tools.*** Over 4,800 people use the City website, [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov), everyday to access valuable information and resources. For example, the City provides residents with information on how to prepare for an emergency, such as an earthquake and wildfire. From the "Residents" tab of the website, users can access the City's Office of Emergency Services. This resource includes information about how to prepare for a disaster before it strikes, setting up an evacuation plan, and the necessary supplies that are needed in a disaster kit. To access this valuable tool, visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## Airport Department

***New Airline Terminal Concession Development Underway.*** The Airline Terminal Project at the Santa Barbara Airport is designed to meet current and future passenger demand, alleviate long lines and overcrowding, and improve operations and efficiency. Food, beverage, and retail concessions will be incorporated into the new airline terminal building. The City will review proposed concession agreements this month. For updates on the Airline Terminal Project, visit: [www.flysba.com](http://www.flysba.com)

***New Public Art Program Gains Momentum.*** The City, in collaboration with the Arts Advisory and Visual Arts in Public Places Committees, recently developed an Airline Terminal Public Art Program to enhance the new terminal building with a unique collection of art. The Program consists of three elements: 1) long term loan of art from the Santa Barbara Arts Commission; 2) commissioned art; and 3) rotating regional art. As part of the program, artists submitted their work in a public competition. Winners were selected and their work will include ceiling beam stenciling, wrought iron railing embellishments, and a floor medallion for the north rotunda. These pieces will be consistent with the Spanish Colonial Revival architecture of the new Terminal and will use green materials and processes as much as possible. The art is scheduled to be installed beginning this fall.

## Community Development Department

***Redevelopment Agency.*** In July 2009, the Governor approved budget bill ABX4-26 as part of the 2009 State budget package, which authorized him to take \$2.05 billion of local redevelopment funds under the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) obligation. The ERAF obligation restores funding to schools that the state is required by law to fund, but cannot fulfill due to budget issues. As a result, the State continues to look for other sources to close the gap. Under the ERAF obligation, the City's Redevelopment Agency (RDA) set aside its ERAF funds to \$6,824,914 for Fiscal Year 2010 and \$1,404,000 for Fiscal Year 2011. These funds were designated to fund a variety of important City infrastructure projects and affordable housing.

The California Redevelopment Association filed a lawsuit in October of 2009 to challenge the constitutionality of State raids of redevelopment funds. In May of 2010, the Superior Court of California upheld the requirement of redevelopment agencies to transfer ERAF funds. The California Redevelopment Agency plans to appeal the ruling, but consideration of the appeal may take one to two years to conclude.

In August of 2015, the RDA will expire. Since its inception, the RDA has played a major role in the revitalization of the City's downtown core and the creation of affordable housing. At its expiration, the RDA will lose its ability to undertake new housing or capital projects. Last month, a report was presented to the City Council that evaluated the purpose of the RDA, implications of the RDA's expiration, the current status of the Central City Redevelopment Project Area, and possible opportunities to continue the success of the RDA. The full report can be found on the City's website at [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

**Plan Santa Barbara Update.** In April, May, and June, the Planning Commission held hearings to receive public comment on the *Plan Santa Barbara* Draft General Plan Policy documents and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). On Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Planning Commission will meet with the City Council to provide recommendations for key policies and mitigation measures that should be incorporated into the final documents. The Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to certify the Final EIR in September. The City Council is expected to review and adopt the General Plan Update in September and Implementation Program in November. The public is invited to all upcoming hearings. For more information on meetings and documents, visit the *Plan Santa Barbara* website at: [www.YouPlanSB.org](http://www.YouPlanSB.org).

**Planning Commission Update.** This month, the Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>:

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission will hold a joint worksession with the Historic Landmarks Commission to hear a presentation from the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum on their capital improvements plan. Bruce Bartlett, Chair of the Planning Commission, will give an overview of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Planning Commission will hold a joint worksession with the City Council to hear a presentation from staff, hold a public hearing, and discuss and give direction on *Plan Santa Barbara*.

## Finance Department

**Transient Occupancy Tax.** Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), a major General Fund revenue source for the City, is a tax imposed on guests for staying in any hotel, inn, motel, or other commercial lodging establishment for 30 days or less. The TOT for April was up 2.8% from last April, which marked its fourth consecutive month of growth. Easter weekend fell in April this year as well as last year, but this April had nine weekend days and April 2009 had only eight weekend days, which likely contributed to the growth. The year-end TOT estimate is \$11,157,000 and reflects an expected decline of 7.3% for the fiscal year overall. Through April, TOT is down 7.5%.

**Community Clean Up a Big Success.** In mid-May, approximately 500 community members volunteered their time at the Seventh Annual Community Clean Up. The event was led by the City's *Looking Good Santa Barbara* program in collaboration with the Franklin Advisory Group, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, and twelve local churches. Volunteers participated in collecting electronic waste, planting trees, restoring creeks, removing graffiti, and cleaning up litter in the Eastside Neighborhood. Volunteers dedicated a total of 1,500 hours to this event, which is time that is valued at \$33,000. For more information on future cleanups, visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

**Foodscraps Composting Program and Local Businesses.** After two and a half years of a successful pilot program that started in spring of 2007 with Cottage Hospital, several downtown restaurants, and two schools, the Foodscraps Composting Program officially expanded into the business sector in November of 2009. Historically, local businesses could

have their trash taken to the Tajiguas Landfill and their recyclables hauled to a materials recovery facility. Thanks to the new Foodscrap Composting Program, leftover plate scrapings, coffee grounds, food preparation trimmings, and other organic materials are collected and hauled to a commercial composting facility so that food remnants can be composted into a rich and usable soil amendment. The City estimated that 71 businesses would be participating in the Foodscrap Composting Program by the end of this month, but exceeded its expectations. The successful program has attracted 93 participants, including 86 businesses and seven schools.

***Partnership with City and School District.*** The Santa Barbara School Recycling Committee is made up of City staff and administrators, principals, teachers, and students with the Santa Barbara School District. With the recent introduction of the Foodscrap Composting Program in schools, the Recycling Committee became interested in increasing waste diversion even more. The City's Environmental Services Division is currently working with schools to introduce the Foodscrap Composting Program over the next two years. The process involves training school staff and students and placing foodscrap containers in all breakfast and lunch areas. The City has helped seven schools work with its franchised haulers, Allied Waste and MarBorg, to establish collection services for foodscrap, which allows schools to save money by decreasing their bill for trash services. Starting in September, the City will continue implementing its foodscrap collections so that by the end of the year, all schools are participating in the program by the end of the year.

## Fire Department

***Defensible Space Chipping Services.*** Over the past few months, property owners in the neighborhoods located in the Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District have participated in the City's chipping service program. This program is made available to residents in the area as part of their wildland fire suppression benefit assessment district fees. This service disposes of cut vegetation to create defensible space and protect homes and neighborhoods during fires. The vegetation is later re-distributed back to residents as chips to use around their properties. The remaining area within the Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District to be provided with this service is the West Mountain Neighborhood. The service will be available to these residents on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vegetation must be placed on roadways no sooner than two weeks and no later than the day of scheduled service. For directions on how to participate in the City's chipping service program, visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov). Residents who missed these recent chipping services for their neighborhood but would like to participate should call Fire Specialist Amber Andersen at 564-5702.

***Defensible Space Inspection/Neighborhood Presentation Request.*** Residents who live in the Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District are being offered a free defensible space inspection. During this inspection, firefighters visit homes and advise property owners about any changes that need to be made to create defensible space in the event of an emergency. Presentations for entire neighborhoods are also available. To request a voluntary inspection or neighborhood presentation, call Fire Services Specialist Amber Anderson at 564-5737 or submit a request through the [City's website](#).



## Library Department

**Blowout Book Sale.** From Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, the Central Library will be holding a sale of books, CDs, DVDs and other items that have been donated to the Library. Items can be purchased for as little as a quarter to as much as two dollars. During the final three days of the sale, customers can fill one plastic or paper grocery bag with as many items as possible for only three dollars. Proceeds from this sale will help to purchase new books and other media for the Library.

**Eastside Library Security Improvements.** As part of a recent renovation of the Eastside Library, the City installed four security cameras on the exterior walls of the building and five security cameras at the nearby Franklin Center. The server for both sets of cameras is located at the Eastside Library and is tied into the City's system so that Library staff will be able to view images if necessary. These security improvements were made possible by a grant.

**Summer Reading Program Kicks Off.** The Library's Summer Reading Program for children called, "Make a Splash – Read!" has just begun. During this program, children earn prizes by keeping track of books that they read over the summer. Teen volunteers, also known as "volunteens," discuss the books with children. There are also weekly performances in all branches of the Santa Barbara Public Library, including jugglers, storytellers, and puppet shows.

This month, the Library's Summer Reading Program for teens will also begin. Teens will log the books that they read and be entered into a drawing for prizes donated by local merchants. Teens will also have the opportunity to write book reviews online. For more information on the Summer Reading Programs for children and teens, call the Children's Desk, 564-5603.

**Summer Poetry Workshop for Adults.** The Central Library is sponsoring a free summer poetry program for adults, called "Poetry for All of Us," which begins on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. This six-week class will be held every Friday from 10 a.m. to Noon in the Faulkner Gallery. It will be taught by David Richo, who is a writer and instructor for the Santa Barbara City College Adult Education Center. During this workshop, students will be encouraged to express their creativity and thoughts by reading and writing poems. For more information about the summer poetry workshop, visit: [www.SBPLibrary.org](http://www.SBPLibrary.org).

## Parks and Recreation

**Call for Website Design and Development.** As part of its efforts to educate residents about the impacts of polluted urban runoff from developed areas, the City is looking for qualified candidates to design and develop a website for the Creeks Division. By providing the public with an educational and user-friendly website, the City hopes that the public can adopt behavior that will help improve water quality. Qualified applicants who are interested in designing the website must submit their proposals by 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit [www.sbcreeks.com](http://www.sbcreeks.com).

**Franceschi Work Day Needs Volunteers.** The City, in collaboration with the Riviera Homeowners Association, will be hosting a work day at Franceschi Park on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>,

from 9 a.m. to Noon. Volunteers are invited to trim plants, clear paths, and perform general park clean up. Participants should wear long sleeves and gloves while volunteering. Although some tools will be provided, volunteers can bring their own equipment, such as rakes and hedge trimmers. Parking for the workday will not be allowed on Mission Ridge Road. Due to limited parking, volunteers are encouraged to walk or carpool to the park. For more information, call Terri Yamada with the Parks and Recreation Department at 564-5484.

***Fun on the Run Van Rolls into Neighborhoods.*** Thanks to sponsorships from the Santa Barbara Foundation, the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation, the Police Activities League, Veneco, and the Downtown Rotary, the *Fun on the Run* Mobile Recreation Program was launched last month. The colorful *Fun on the Run* van visited children in several areas including West Victoria Street, South Soledad Street, and the Westside Community Center. The van is filled with activities, arts and crafts, and sports equipment to serve children in the Eastside and Westside neighborhoods every Tuesday through Friday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. *Fun on the Run* is intended to benefit low-income second through eighth graders who are unable to participate in traditional recreational programs and are usually home alone after school. In addition to fun activities, the program's experienced and trained recreation leaders provide supervision and serve as mentors and positive role models to children in our community who need them the most.

***Youth Leadership Awards Banquet Celebrates Teen Achievements.*** The City, in collaboration with the Santa Barbara Teen Coalition and the Endowment for Youth Committee, hosted the Ninth Annual Youth Leadership Awards Banquet at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion last month. Youth from more than 30 agencies, such as City at Peace and the Museum of Natural History, were honored at the event. This year's banquet theme, "Youth Leaders...Get to the Heart of the Matter," highlighted the dedication that local youth have for community service. These teens were recognized for their compassion for others, outstanding academic achievement, and the ability to overcome challenging obstacles.

***Community Garden Plots Available for Rent.*** For only \$60 per year at the Yanonali Community Garden, people can grow their own healthy organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The community garden features individually-boxed plots, with mulch and decomposed granite pathways to make the gardening experience safe and accessible. Additionally, raised beds have been built for people with disabilities. Rest areas, information kiosks, storage sheds, compost bins, water spigots, and trash receptacles are also part of each garden. In addition to the yearly fee, a \$15 refundable key deposit is required. To rent a garden plot, call 963-7605 or visit the Franklin Neighborhood Center at 1136 East Montecito Street.

## Police Department

***Another Year of D.A.R.E. Success.*** Last month, 370 children from Adams, Harding, McKinley, Roosevelt, Washington, and Notre Dame Elementary schools graduated from the Police Department's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program at the Arlington Theater. The program provides children with skills necessary for managing pressures that can lead to drug and alcohol experimentation. As part of the program, each graduating student wrote an essay explaining what they learned during months of instruction. Winners of the essay contest were announced during graduation. For more information on the D.A.R.E. program, call Officer Anita Chamberlain at 897-3712.



***Tips for Requesting Police Services.*** The Santa Barbara Police Department is committed to the safety of City residents and appreciates the public's patience and cooperation when requesting police assistance in both emergency and non-emergency situations. Residents should call 9-1-1 for police assistance in emergency situations and crimes that are in progress. For non-emergency and non-life threatening situations that require police assistance, the public should call 897-2300. Callers should be aware that emergency calls have priority over non-emergency calls and that officers will respond as soon as possible.

When requesting police assistance, callers should provide the following information: 1) type of incident; 2) location; 3) whether or not the crime is still in progress; 4) the number of suspects, if any, and whether they are armed; 5) suspect description and last known direction of travel 6) vehicle description, if any; 7) and last known direction of travel. For more information about requesting police services, visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## Public Works Department

***Utility Rate Increases Proposed for Fiscal Year 2011.*** A Public Hearing about proposed utility rate increases has been scheduled for Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. The increases are necessary to offset the rising costs of operating the water and wastewater systems, and to meet contractual obligations to compensate the City's trash haulers for the cost of doing business. Water rates are proposed to increase by 3.5%, sewer rates by 4%, and trash/recycling rates by 2.9%. New rates would be effective on utility bills dated July 1<sup>st</sup> or later.

***Energy Report.*** Last year, the City's Energy Team achieved many accomplishments, including auditing electrical service accounts to find cost savings, energy conservation projects to save energy and money, and renewable generation projects to reduce the City's impact on the environment. Last month, the 2009 Energy Report was presented to the City Council to provide a summary of the City's historic energy use and cost, the impact of energy team conservation projects, and highlights of future plans. To view the 2009 Energy Report, visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

***Installation of Sidewalk Access Ramps.*** The goal of sidewalk access ramps is to provide a safe and gradual slope down to street level to enhance accessibility for pedestrians in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In April, the City began installing sidewalk access ramps at seven intersections throughout the Eastside neighborhood. This project is scheduled to be completed next month. In addition, the City began installing ramps at six intersections along Alisos Street early this month. The project is scheduled to be completed in mid-July.

There is also a larger American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Sidewalk Access Ramp project that was recently approved by City Council. The project, which is funded with federal stimulus money, includes installing 59 ramps throughout the City. The project will fund the repair of over 30,000 square feet of sidewalk and is scheduled for construction next month. For more information, visit: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Engineering](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Engineering).

***Parking Lots 4 and 5 Circulation and Accessibility Improvements.*** Driveway entrances and disability parking spaces in Lots 4 and 5 are currently being updated. In addition

to these improvements, Lot 4, which is located on Chapala Street between Figueroa and Anapamu Streets, will have a new kiosk, landscaping, and drainage. Residents and employees will also notice changes in Lot 5, which is located on Chapala Street between Anapamu and Victoria Streets. Construction of both lots is scheduled to be completed by early next month.

***Upper State Street and De la Vina Street Construction.*** Beginning mid-June, the City will replace the street surface on upper State Street and De la Vina Street. This project requires using an asphalt overlay to restore the street surface. Most blocks on State Street from La Cumbre Road south to De la Vina Street and all blocks on De la Vina Street from State Street south to West Alamar Avenue will be affected by construction. One lane of traffic will be open in each direction and traffic speed may be reduced. Construction will take place between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. This project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and will be completed by the end of next month.

## **Waterfront Department**

***Federal Channel Dredging.*** In mid-April, dredging in the Harbor was completed, resulting in the removal of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of sand off West Beach. Dredging is a technique that the City uses to keep waterways navigable, especially after winter storms deposited additional sediment in the federal channel. The City is preparing for the next dredging process, which is scheduled to begin this fall. The project is expected to go out to bid this month and a contract is expected to be awarded in August.